

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 18 as follows:

Conventionally, a connecting device of a construction machine is equipped with a thrust bearing to slide under a large thrust load. For such a thrust bearing, a thrust bearing made of a carburized steel or an induction hardened steel has been used in order to obtain sufficient seizing resistance and abrasion resistance for withstanding a high-bearing stress and low-speed sliding condition and a grease lubricating condition. And, recently, in view of the demand for easy maintenance, in order to extend a lubricating interval of a thrust bearing, a thrust bearing, in which a steel is coated with a superhard thermal ~~splay-spray~~ material excellent in seizing resistance and abrasion resistance comprising WC and self-fluxing alloy, is sometimes put in practical use for such a thrust bearing equipped for a connecting device of a construction machine.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 27 as follows:

And, in a case of a thrust bearing in which a steel is coated with a superhard thermal ~~splay-spray~~ material, the superhard thermal ~~splay-spray~~ material layer easily breaks down because of its insufficient seizing resistance and its thin thickness. In addition, the resultant breakage pieces may further damage the layer.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 24 as follows:

In a thrust bearing in which a back metal thereof is coated with a superhard thermal ~~splaying-spraying~~ film, when the back metal has a hardness of about Hv400 or less, the film is easy to break by sand or gravel jammed therein. So, it is necessary to form the film more thick,

resulting in economical disadvantage. On the contrary, when the back metal is made by a hard material, a thermal spraying film can be thinned as 0.5mm or less. However, bonding strength of the film to the back metal weakens, whereby the film is easy to break or peel due to sand or gravel jammed therein and a large offset load. Accordingly, in the present invention, a thickness of a ferrous sintered sliding body is set to 0.5mm or more, more preferably 1mm or more in order to prevent a ferrous sintered sliding body sintering-bonded to a soft back metal having hardness of Hv170 (yield strength of 20kgf/mm²) from breaking or peeling by sand or gravel jammed therein. And, a ferrous sintered sliding body preferably has flexural strength of at least 30kgf/cm² or more. And, even if the thrust bearing is used in a operating condition with severe abrasion, it is not preferred that the ferrous sintered sliding body has a thickness of 4mm or more because breakage due to bending caused by a offset load would occur easily. In addition, economical efficiency decreases. And, bonding strength of a conventional sintering-bonded surface is higher than bonding strength of a thermal spraying film (5 to 10kgf/cm²) and has almost the same strength as a share strength of a sintered material.